

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-02 ORM-02

AID-05 PC-01 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 ACDA-07 SCA-01 SY-05 A-01 OPR-02 OMB-01

EB-08 COME-00 INT-05 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /131 W

-----141509Z 071805 /46

O P 141413Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5409

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MOPS CG ZA

SUBJ: ZAIRIAN BOMBING OF ZAMBIAN VILLAGES

REF: STATE 82045; LUSAKA 953

1. ROVING ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR LENGEMA ASKED AMBASSADOR AND DCM TO MEET WITH HIM EVENING OF APRIL 13 FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA. LENGEMA WAS NOT OVERLY COMMUNICATIVE ABOUT HIS DISCUSSION OF THE BOMBING INCIDENT WITH KAUNDA, SAYING ONLY THAT IT HAD BEEN EXPLAINED TO THE SATISFACTION OF KAUNDA. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ZAMBIA'S SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE IN GENERAL, HE SAID ZAMBIA BACKED ZAIRE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT. PRES KAUNDA APPROVED THE ARRIVAL OF MOROCCAN TROOPS AND OIL SUPPLIES WOULD CONTINUE.

2. FOLLOWING HIS BRIEF REMARKS ON HIS VISIT, LENGEMA TURNED TO THE US FAILURE TO SUPPORT ZAIRE ADEQUATELY IN ITS MOMENT
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OF NEED. IN A LENGTHY COMMENTARY HE ACCUSED THE US OF FAILING TO ASSIST A GOOD FRIEND BY REFUSING TO PROVIDE ARMS AND BY NOT ENCOURAGING OTHERS TO COME TO ZAIRE'S AID WITH TROOPS. HE ALSO MADE SEVERAL REFERENCES TO US AMBIVALENCE TO THE THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN AFRICA. COUNTER ARGUMENTS MADE NO APPARENT IMPACT.

3. LOCAL PRESS APRIL 14 CARRIES A FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT OF LENGEMA VISIT INDICATING IT WAS RELATED TO PRES KAUNDA'S CONCERN ABOUT THE BOMBING INCIDENT BUT GIVING NO DETAILS.

4. MORNING AFTER LENGEMA'S MEETING WITH KAUNDA, MARK CHONA TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT LENGEMA HAD RAISED WITH KAUNDA REPORTS THAT KATANGAN INVADERS HAD EITHER PASSED THROUGH OR USED ZAMBIAN TERRITORY AS A STAGING AREA FOR ONE GROUP WHICH HAD ATTACKED MUTSHATSHA. KAUNDA STRESSED TO LENGEMA THAT THESE REPORTS WERE WITHOUT FOUNDATION. HE SPECULATED THAT THEY MAY HAVE BEEN OBSERVATIONS OF ZAMBIAN TROOP MOVEMENTS NEAR THE BORDER. KAUNDA EXPLAINED THAT ZAMBIAN TROOPS ARE OPERATING IN THIS REGION TO PROTECT THE FRONTIER AND PURSUE THE MUSHALA GANG.

5. CHONA ALSO INDICATED THAT, CONTRARY TO WHAT LENGEMA TOLD US, GRZ'S SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE IS NOT WITHOUT RESERVATIONS. ZAMBIANS WORRY THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS MAY SOON TIRE OF THE STRUGGLE PARTICULARLY IF THE POLISARIO INCREASES ITS ACTIVITIES. AS FOR OIL SUPPLIES, CHONA SAID THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR TO LENGEMA THAT ZAMBIA COULD DO NO MORE THAN PROVIDE NORMAL QUANTITIES TO SHABA. ZAMBIA, HE EXPLAINED, HAS ITS OWN SUPPLY PROBLEM, DEPENDENT AS IT IS ON A PIPELINE THROUGH TANZANIA WHICH DELIVERS ENOUGH OIL FOR ZAMBIA'S NEEDS BUT NOT MUCH MORE. FURTHER, ZAMBIA IS FEELING THE EFFECTS OF THE TANZANIA/KENYA BORDER CLOSURE ON THE REGULAR DELIVERY OF SPECIALIZED PETROLEUM PRODUCTS.

6. COMMENT: THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH ZAIRE RESPONDED TO PRES KAUNDA'S COMPLAINT ABOUT THE BOMBING, WE BELIEVE, HAS GONE CONFIDENTIAL

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A LONG WAY TOWARDS DEFUSING THIS INCIDENT. WE ACCEPT LENGEMA'S STATEMENT THAT THE ZAMBIANS ARE PREPARED TO REGARD THIS MATTER AS CLOSED. PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE OF LENGEMA'S MISSION INDICATES GRZ WILLINGNESS TO LET THE PUBLIC KNOW THAT ZAMBIA IS NOT GOING TO OVERPLAY THE BOMBING. HOWEVER, AS INDICATED BY CHONA'S COMMENTARY ON THE BROADER QUESTION OF ZAMBIA'S WHOLEHEARTED SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE, LENGEMA WAS OVERSTATING THE CASE CONSIDERABLY. IN ALL OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH ZAMBIANS A CONSTANT THEME HAS BEEN CONCERN ABOUT ANY INTERNATIONALIZATION OR EXPANSION OF THE SHABA FIGHTING. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY WORRIED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE ARRIVAL OF MOROCCANS WILL LEAD TO ESCALATION ON THE OTHER SIDE.
LOW

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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